

HUNTERS POINT NAVAL SHIPYARD,
COMMERCIAL DRYDOCK AREA, BUILDING 207
East of the intersection of Robinson Avenue & Fischer Drive
San Francisco
San Francisco County
California

HAER NO. CA-2273-D

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 97104

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, Commercial Drydock Area, Building 207

HAER No. CA-2273-D

Location: Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, San Francisco, California
USGS Quadrangle Hunters Point, 1993
UTM Coordinates for Building 207: 10 mE556469E mN4175928

Significance:

Building 207, a paint and tool shop, is a contributing element to the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, Commercial Drydock Area. The historic area is significant at the state level for its important association with the development of commercial shipping and ship-repair in the San Francisco Bay area. The historic area is also a significant example of marine engineering, the work of master engineer, Howard C. Holmes, and a significant example of Neoclassical Revival architecture used for industrial buildings. Built by Bethlehem Shipbuilding in the 1930s to support their commercial ship repair operations, Building 207 contributes to the significance of the commercial historic area.

Description:

Building 207, a brick building with a rectangular footprint, was constructed in the 1930s in a simple utilitarian style using basic building materials (**Photograph 1**). The corrugated-metal gable roof has narrow eaves with exposed rafter tails. Fenestration includes rectangular steel windows comprised of a four-light pivot sash surrounded by twelve fixed lights. Each window includes a brick soldier lintel and brick sill (**Photograph 7**). Entrances, located throughout the building, consist of both wood and metal doors. The Navy converted this building into a latrine in 1941. Currently the interior space is divided into nine rooms, most of which are accessed only from exterior doors and many of which are inaccessible because of safety hazards. The central portion of the building is divided into two main rooms that consist of toilets (separated by metal stalls), urinals, and showers, many of which have been removed or damaged, stainless steel sink basins, and dressing areas (**Photographs 8, 9**). Walls of the shower room are tiled, and the dressing rooms are formed by lathe and plaster partition walls. Vertical I-beams throughout the building support lathe and plaster ceilings. Concrete floors throughout run seamlessly approximately eight inches up the walls, forming a base.

History:

For a detailed history of Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, Commercial Drydock Area, please refer to **HAER No. CA-2273**.

Bethlehem Shipbuilding constructed Building 207 as a tool and paint shop at the Hunters Point commercial drydocks sometime between 1930 and 1940. The building sat just west of Building 205, the pump house for Drydock 2. This was the last building constructed in the historic area before the Navy purchased the site in 1939. It is also the only building in the district not directly linked to pumping the drydocks. Building 207 instead served a support function and its modest architectural style reflects this secondary position. Construction materials and design strongly

resemble an east addition of Building 205. Both have low pitched, corrugated metal, gabled roofs, simple brick construction without ornamentation, and rectangular window and door openings.¹

The Navy converted Building 207 to a latrine and wash house in 1942. Navy plans show the building partitioned into various rooms, each with its own entrance door (**Photograph 11**). The largest room, located in the center of the building, served enlisted men. A shower room and two dressing rooms in the center of the room were surrounded by toilet stalls; urinals lined the east and west sides of the room, wash basins the north and south sides. The northwest corner of the building had a room with toilet stalls, urinals, and wash basins to serve shipyard workmen. A boiler room in the southwest corner of the building had one exterior door. An enlisted men's laundry room with one exterior door was between the boiler room and the large central room. The east end of the building was divided into four small rooms designated for warrant officers, officers, C.P.O.'s and Captains. Each of these rooms had its own exterior entrance, three on the east end of the building, one on the north side. In the Navy's conversion of this building they added new exterior doors, and changed existing doors to windows in some cases. They added three skylights to the ridge of the roof during this renovation. During World War II, a request was submitted to the Public Works Officer at Mare Island for authorization of funds to alter the building to accommodate the shipyard's women workers. At the time of field inspection, plywood partition walls were present in the east end of the central room that may have been the requested accommodation.²

After World War II the Hunters Point facility continued to serve as a docking area for Navy ships for repair, overhaul, maintenance and conversion. In 1974, the Navy deactivated the shipyard and leased the facility to private industry; however, the Navy continued to station several of its ships at Hunters Point. In 1991, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission identified Hunters Point for closure. Over the next decade, the Navy and City and County of San Francisco negotiated terms for the lease and subsequent transfer of the facility.³

¹ *Photograph*, 1930, RG 181, Records of Naval District and Shore Establishments, 12th Naval District, SF Naval Shipyard – Hunters Point, Historical Shipyard Photographic Collection, 1904-74, 9NS-S 181-95-010, Box 3, Folder Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Aerial Photograph Binder [1930-1969]; *U. S. Naval Drydocks Hunters Point, Layout of Yard June 30, 1940, History Plate II*, found in Edwin G. Schmidt, *History of the Development and Operation of a Naval Repair Yard at Hunters Point During World War II*, n.d.

² *Memorandum, Commander Millon to Commander Lewis, November 13, 1942*, Folder: A1-4 Public Works, Box 1, Hunters Point General Correspondence, RG 181, NARA (San Bruno); Barrett & Hilp Contractors, *Latrine & Wash House Floor Plan, Etc., January 31, 1942*, Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (Building 383), Public Works Drawing Nos. 10512-65, 10512-66.

³ JRP Historical Consulting Services, *Historic Context and Inventory and Evaluation of Buildings and Structures, Hunters Point Shipyard, San Francisco*, September 1997, 27-28; "San Francisco Naval Shipyard in Permanent Status," *Pacific Marine Review* (June 1947), 63-65, 120; Bonnie L. Bamburg, *Historical Overview of Hunters Point Annex Treasure Island Naval Base and Descriptions of Properties that Appear Eligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places*, Submitted to Western Division, Naval Facilities, Engineering Division, 1988, 44-45; Steven R. Black, *Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Historic American Engineering Record for Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, Drydock No. 4, HAER No. CA-181-A*, (April 1994) 11-12.

Sources:

- Bamburg, Bonnie L. "Historical Overview of Hunters Point Annex Treasure Island Naval Base and Descriptions of Properties that Appear Eligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places." Submitted to Western Division, Naval Facilities, Engineering Division, 1988.
- Barrett & Hilp Contractors. "Latrine & Wash House Floor Plan, Etc." Public Works Drawing No. 113485. San Francisco, January 31, 1942. Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (Building 383).
- _____. "Latrine & Wash House, Elevations." Public Works Drawing No. 113486. San Francisco, January 31, 1942. Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (Building 383).
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- Millon, Commander to Commander Lewis, Memorandum. November 13, 1942, National Archives and Records Administration (San Francisco), RG 181, Box: 1, Hunters Point Naval Shipyard General Correspondence, Folder: A1-4 Public Works.
- Photograph, 1930, National Archives and Records Administration (San Francisco), RG 181, Records of Naval District and Shore Establishments, 12th Naval District, SF Naval Shipyard – Hunters Point, Historical Shipyard Photographic Collection, 1904-74. 9NS-S 181-95-010, Box 3, Folder Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Aerial Photograph Binder [1930-1969].
- Schmidt, Edwin G. "History of the Development and Operation of a Naval Repair Yard at Hunters Point During World War II." Unpublished, n.d.

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Project Information: This project was undertaken to fulfill the requirements of the *Memorandum of Agreement Among The United States Navy, The Advisory Council for Historic Preservation and The California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Interim Leasing and Disposal of Historic Properties on the Former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, San Francisco, California*. Heather Norby and Toni Webb of JRP Historical Consulting, LLC (JRP) prepared this document for the Navy. Both Ms. Norby and Ms. Webb conducted fieldwork, contributed to architectural descriptions and the historic context. JRP conducted research at the California State Library, Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (Building 383), National Archives and Records Administration (San Bruno), San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Library, and the BRAC PMO West Caretaker Site Office on Treasure Island. William B. Dewey produced the photography.

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SITE MAP:

